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G.I.'S WILL TRAIN IN HONDURAS AGAIN

White House Aides Say Troops
Will Be Sent Each Year for
the Foreseeable Future

By RICHARD HALLORAN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — Senior Reagan Administration officials said today that United States military forces, which have just completed a major training exercise in Honduras, would be sent to that country to train each year for the foreseeable future, perhaps for as long as 20 years.

The officials said plans were firm for this year and the next two years but were somewhat vague beyond that.

Meantime, the chief of the United States Southern Command, Gen. Paul F. Gorman, told a Senate committee that the exercises this summer would be expanded to include Guatemalan, Salvadoran and possibly Panamanian troops along with those from Honduras and the United States.

General Gorman, whose headquarters in Panama controls United States forces in Central America, also said American advisers trained 3,300 Honduran soldiers in 1983 and planned to train 25,000 to 29,000 this year.

Access to Bases Sought

The White House officials said the Administration had been seeking long-term access for American forces to an extensive network of Honduran military bases, most of which are being improved and expanded with American aid.

In defending the Administration's policy as critical to the security of Central America, the officials insisted that the Administration was not seeking permanent bases in Honduras. Rather, they said access to bases made possible the deployment of American combat forces in a contingency.

That policy brought fresh criticism from Congress today. Representative Bill Alexander, Democrat of Arkansas, said the Reagan Administration had practiced "evasion, misinformation and subterfuge" in explaining its policy toward Honduras.

He contended that the Administration's action was similar to that of the Johnson Administration in the mid-1960's, when he said that Administration sought to conceal the gradual American involvement in the war in Vietnam.

"So Quickly Forgotten"

Mr. Alexander, in a speech in the House, said, "Has the Reagan Administration so quickly forgotten the lessons of our recent past that our nation is doomed to a future of repeating those errors?"

Mr. Alexander, a deputy Democratic whip and middle-ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, has asked the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress, to undertake a comprehensive inquiry of the United States involvement in Central America.

Since the new session of Congress convened in January, most members have focused their attention on Lebanon. At the same time, however, many members have peppered senior Administration officials with questions about United States military activity in Honduras.

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, in testimony on the 1985 military budget, has sought to disarm the critics by discounting the continued presence of several hundred American troops in Honduras and by saying the installations being improved there were temporary.

Pentagon and C.I.A. Criticized

The remarks by Mr. Alexander today, however, seemed more pointed than those heard earlier. He accused the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency of "dilatory, manipulative, and obstructionist tactics" in failing to keep Congress informed.

According to a memo by Mr. Alexander's staff, an interim General Accounting Office report says that "the Administration is engaging in a systematic effort to withhold from Congress relevant data on American involvement" in Honduras and Nicaragua.

On Honduras, a recent report by the staff of the House Subcommittee on Military Construction, of which Mr. Alexander is a member, said 12 sites had been found there either under construction or proposed for expansion with American aid.

They included four airfields, two radar sites, two ports, two training centers and two camps.